



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Michael Workman 619-531-5450

COUNTY MERITS NATIONAL ATTENTION FOR ONLINE SERVICES *San Diego County in Top 10*

San Diego County tied for fourth place in a national ranking of counties judged on the ability to deliver high quality online service to its citizens, announced Chief Administrative Officer Walt Ekard today.

The Digital Counties Survey, underwritten by Microsoft Corporation and conducted jointly by the Center for Digital Government, National Association of Counties (NACo) and *Government Technology* magazine, is the first in a series of national studies by the Center examining how governments use online services, also called information technology.

"We knew our online services were progressive and customer-friendly, but it is particularly rewarding to receive outside recognition of our efforts," said Ekard. "At a time when state and county dollars are scarce, going online is a way we can provide and maintain services for our residents."

First place in the category of 500,000-plus population was Maricopa County, Arizona, followed by Miami-Dade County, Fla.; Montgomery County, Md., and Orange County, Fla. (tied for third); Orange County, Calif., and San Diego County, Calif. (tied for fourth); Riverside County, Calif.

In recognition of their achievements, Ekard and Board of Supervisors Chair Greg Cox will be honored at NACo's annual conference July 13 in Milwaukee.

Some of the online services offered by San Diego County include www.networkofcare.org, which provides information for seniors, the disabled and their caretakers; www.sdcountry.ca.gov/oes, which talks about terrorism and preparedness; and www.empowersd.com, which shows information and maps to employment, child care, public transportation, schools, libraries and hospitals.

For more information on the Digital Counties Survey, link to <http://www.centerdigitalgov.com/center/03digitalcounties.php> or contact Rhonda Wilson 916-932-1321.

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